

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, OAS, US, UY
SUBJ: OASGA - ROVIRA REJECTS CONDITIONS, CONFIRMS MENDEZ LETTER

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 134 B) MONTEVIDEO 135

1. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW CARRIED BY
OPPOSITIONIST EL DIA JANUARY 13, FONMIN ROVIRA REJECTS ANY
QUID PRO QUO FOR THE HOLDING OF THE 8TH OASGA IN URUGUAY.
REFERRING TO RECENT WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT THE U.S.
WOULD WITHDRAW ITS OPPOSITION IF URUGUAY ACCEPTS AN IAHRC
VISIT, ROVIRA WAS ASKED IF THE U.S. MIGHT INDEED CONDITION
ITS VOTE ON THE ISSUE. HE REPLIED THAT HE "HAD READ SOME-
THING, BUT WASN'T SURE", AND ADDED THAT "THE UNITED STATES
IS A GREAT COUNTRY, TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY WITH OURS AND
AS A MEMBER OF THE OAS WILL VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE URUGUAYAN
POSITION, FREELY, HOWEVER IT MAY DECIDE". HOWEVER, "OUR
COUNTRY WILL NOT ACCEPT CONDITIONS OF ANY SORT IN EXCHANGE FOR
BEING NAMED SITE OF THE 8TH ASSEMBLY, A CLEARLY OBJECTIVE
POINT WHICH ADMITS NO LIMITATIONS". ROVIRA CLOSED THE
INTERVIEW BY STATING THAT URUGUAY HAD BEEN OBJECT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO VILIFY IT AS A "SORT
OF TORTURE CHAMBER," AND THAT THE GOU BELIEVED THAT
HOLDING THE ASSEMBLY HERE WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO ALL
CONCERNED - DELEGATES, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, PRESS
COEPS, ETC. - "THE AUTHENTIC NATIONAL REALITY, THE
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CLIMATE OF PEACE IN WHICH WE LIVE".

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, ALL MONTEVIDEO PAPERS IN THEIR
JANUARY 13 EVENING AND JANUARY 14 MARNING EDITIONS
HEADLINED THE EFE NEWS STORY REPORTED REFTEL A.
THESE STORIES ALSO CARRY FONMIN ROVIRA'S CONFIRMA-
TION THAT MENDEZ DID SEND A LETTER TO CARTER ON

JANUARY 11, AS WELL AS HIS REFUSAL TO SPECULATE
ON OR CONFIRM THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER BECAUSE
OF ITS "CONFIDENTIAL NATURE." EVEN WHEN THE PRESS
PERSISTED IN ASKING WHY THE GOU ASKS FOR U.S. SUPPORT
TO HOLD THE OASGA IN MONTEVIDEO, ROVIRA REPLIED
"THAT IS WHAT YOU DEDUCE FROM THE CABLE FROM WASHINGTON
ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE CONTAINED IN THE LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT MENDEZ. I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT EXACTLY
BECAUSE OF THOSE CONFIDENTIAL TERMS, I COULD NOT BEGIN
TO ANALYZE IT OR REVEAL ITS CONTENT."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH (AS REPORTED REFTTEL A) ROVIRA
EARLIER TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE INTENDED TO CONFIRM
TO THE PRESS THAT THE LETTER CONTAINED A REQUEST FOR
SUPPORT FOR OASGA INVITATION, FOR SOME UNKNOWN
REASON HE DID NOT DO SO.
PEZZULLO

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR CEURVORST S/S-O.

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